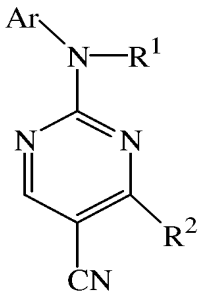
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein

Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched chain alkyl group;

R^2 is a $-X^1-R^3$ group;

X^1 is a linker group selected from -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl)-, ~~$-C(R^7)_2-$~~, $-CON(R^7)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^7)-$, $-CSN(R^7)-$, $-N(R^7)CO-$, $-N(R^7)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^7)CS-$, $-SON(R^7)-$, $-SO_2N(R^7)-$, $-N(R^7)SO_2-$, $-N(R^7)CON(R^7)-$, $-N(R^7)CSN(R^7)-$, $-N(R^7)SON(R^7)-$, and $-N(R^7)SO_2N(R^7)-$;

R^7 is a hydrogen atom or C_{1-6} alkyl group;

R^3 is an optionally substituted aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, heteroaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

~~and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides~~ or a salt or N-oxide thereof.

2. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom.

3-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Ar is a phenyl, pyridyl, indolyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl or benzoxazolyl group each substituted by one, two or three $-R^4$ or $-Alk(R^4)_m$ substituents;

~~in which~~ R^4 is a halogen atom, or an amino ($-NH_2$), substituted amino, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl (-OH), substituted hydroxyl, formyl, carboxyl ($-CO_2H$), esterified carboxyl, thiol (-SH), substituted thiol, $-COR^5$ ~~[where R^5 is a $-Alk(R^4)_m$, aryl or heteroaryl group]~~, $-CSR^5$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R^5$, $-SO_2NH_2$, $-SO_2NHR^5$, ~~$-SO_2N[R^5]_2$~~ $-SO_2N(R^5)_2$, $-CONH_2$, $-CSNH_2$, $-CONHR^5$, $-CSNHR^5$, ~~$-CON[R^5]_2$~~ $-CON(R^5)_2$, ~~$-CSN[R^5]_2$~~ $-CSN(R^5)_2$, $-NHSO_2H$, $-NHSO_2R^5$, ~~$-N[SO_2R^5]_2$~~ $-N(SO_2R^5)_2$, $-NHSO_2NH_2$, $-NHSO_2NHR^5$, ~~$-NHSO_2N[R^5]_2$~~ $-NHSO_2N(R^5)_2$, $-NHCOR^5$, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NHCONHR^5$, ~~$-NHCON[R^5]_2$~~ $-NHCON(R^5)_2$, $-NHCSR^5$, $-NHC(O)OR^5$, or optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, hetero-cycloaliphatic, aryl or heteroaryl group;

R^5 is a $-Alk(R^4)_m$, aryl or heteroaryl group;

Alk is a straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene or C_{2-6} alkynylene chain, optionally interrupted by one, two or three -O- or -S- atoms or groups selected from -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$ ~~or~~ and $-N(R^6)-$ ~~[where R^6 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched chain C_{1-6} alkyl group]~~;

R^6 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched chain C_{1-6} alkyl group; and

m is zero or an integer 1, 2 or 3.

7. (original) A compound according to Claim 6 wherein Ar is a phenyl group substituted by one, two or three $-R^4$ or $-Alk(R^4)_m$ substitutents.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of Claim 5 to Claim 7~~ claim 6 or claim 7 wherein at least one of $-R^4$, and $-Alk(R^4)_m$, ~~R^{4b} or $-Alk(R^{4b})_m$~~ is a $-X^{1a}(Alk^a)_pNR^{7a}R^{7b}$) ~~(where X^{1a} is a direct bond or a linker atom or group, Alk^a is as defined for Alk, p is zero or an integer 1 and R^{7a} and R^{7b} which may be the same or different is each a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched C_{1-6}alkyl group)~~, $-X^{1a}(Alk^a)_pNHet^1$ ~~(where $NHet^1$ is an optionally substituted C_{3-7}cyclicamino group optionally containing one or more O or S~~

~~atoms or $N(R^6)$ [where R^6 is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched chain C_{1-6}alkyl group])~~ or $-X^{1a}(Alk^a)_pAr^2$ group ~~(where Ar^2 is a nitrogen containing heteroaromatic group);~~

X^{1a} is a direct bond or a linker group selected from -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^7)-$, $-C(R^7)_2-$, $-CON(R^7)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^7)-$, $-CSN(R^7)-$, $-N(R^7)CO-$, $-N(R^7)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^7)CS-$, $-SON(R^7)-$, $-SO_2N(R^7)-$, $-N(R^7)SO_2-$, $-N(R^7)CON(R^7)-$, $-N(R^7)CSN(R^7)-$, $-N(R^7)SON(R^7)-$, and $-N(R^7)SO_2N(R^7)-$;

Alk^a is a straight or branched C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene or C_{2-6} alkynylene chain, optionally interrupted by one, two or three -O- or -S- atoms or groups selected from -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$ and $-N(R^6)-$;

p is zero or an integer 1;

R^{7a} and R^{7b} are each independently a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched C_{1-6}alkyl group;

$-NHet^1$ is an optionally substituted C_{3-7}cyclicamino group optionally containing one or more -O- or -S- atoms or $-N(R^6)$; and

Ar^2 is a nitrogen containing heteroaromatic group.

9-10. (canceled)

11. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.